



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
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REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Working methods and funding of the GESAMP EHS Working Group

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document describes the function and operation of GESAMP and its EHS Working Group

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6.1

Related documents: BLG 5/14, MEPC 45/9/2

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During its fifth session, the Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) had a general discussion on the working methods of the GESAMP EHS Working Group and the ESPH Working Group in relation to the timing associated with the reclassification of products in the IBC Code in accordance with the proposed alternative Pollution Categorization Systems under Annex II of MARPOL 73/78.

1.2 During these discussions, concern was expressed about the current working methods of the GESAMP EHS Working Group which were not transparent to all members of the Sub-Committee.

1.3 As a result, the Sub-Committee requested MEPC to consider the work of GESAMP and in order to facilitate this request, the Secretariat was instructed to provide the relevant information on the working methods and funding of the GESAMP EHS Working Group to MEPC and to provide a comparison of the working methods of this Group with other expert groups that have reported to IMO.

2 GESAMP HISTORY

2.1 In 1968, IMO, FAO, UNESCO and WMO agreed to establish the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP¹) to encourage the interdisciplinary

¹ Now known as the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environment Protection.

consideration of marine pollution problems and to avoid duplication of efforts within the United Nations system.

2.2 The main subject areas on which GESAMP has provided advice since its foundation include:

- .1 the assessment of potential effects of substances and energy entering the marine environment from land-based and sea-based activities;
- .2 the development of scientific bases for marine research and monitoring programmes;
- .3 the exchange of scientific information relevant for the management and control of marine environmental protection;
- .4 the sustainable management of the coastal zone including reduction of the impacts of aquaculture development; and
- .5 the review of the state of the marine environment.

3 WORKING METHODS OF GESAMP

3.1 Primary objectives of GESAMP

3.1.1 The primary objective of GESAMP is to identify and investigate issues of particular relevance and significance for the marine environment and, in providing advice on such issues, make a substantive contribution to regional and global initiatives for marine environmental protection.

3.2 Functions of GESAMP

3.2.1 The principle functions of GESAMP are to:

- .1 provide independent multi-disciplinary scientific advice and in depth reviews on specific issues relating to marine environmental protection, recognizing that such issues often have social, economic and other dimensions;
- .2 prepare periodic reviews and assessments of the state of the marine environment, identifying problems and areas requiring special attention and provide strategic guidance. These assessments shall be conducted in a manner consistent with ongoing assessments carried out by the Sponsoring Organizations;
- .3 issue statements in a timely manner in response to significant events involving degradation of the marine environment and risks to human health and marine ecosystems; and
- .4 analyse issues of particular concern regarding the degradation and protection of the marine environment and to present the results of these analyses on a periodic basis in the form of reports in non-technical language.

3.3 GESAMP Secretariat

3.3.1 IMO acts as the Administrative Secretariat; the Secretary-General of IMO assigns an IMO staff member as the Administrative Secretary of GESAMP, and each of the Sponsoring Organizations assigns a Technical Secretary for the Group. The Administrative Secretary and the Technical Secretaries of GESAMP together form the Joint Secretariat.

3.4 GESAMP membership

3.4.1 Each of GESAMP's Sponsoring Organizations nominates up to four experts, who shall be appointed, in general for four to six one-year terms, to serve as GESAMP members, having in mind particular subject issues under consideration.

3.4.2 In nominating experts as members of GESAMP, the Organizations shall take due account of the geographic and multi-disciplinary composition of the Group in order to ensure a globally balanced perspective.

3.4.3 The experts shall act in their individual capacities and not as representatives of their institutions, governments or associations.

3.5 GESAMP Working Groups

3.5.1 In cases where topics, issues or questions require detailed consideration or extensive evaluation, GESAMP establishes Working Groups, to carry out work during GESAMP sessions and/or intersessional periods.

3.5.2 Each Working Group shall be supported by at least three of the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP. Support shall be provided in financial contributions to the costs of work, and/or in making accessible relevant material and data.

3.5.3 The Sponsoring Organization suggesting the subject of work to be carried out by a Working Group acts as its Lead Organization. It designates, in consultation with other Co-sponsoring Organizations, a GESAMP member as Chairman of the Working Group. In general, three quarters of the experts participating in a Working Group shall be nominated from outside GESAMP's membership by the Lead Organization, taking due account of the geographic and multi-disciplinary composition of the Working Group, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group and other Co-sponsoring Organizations of a Working Group.

3.5.4 The Lead Organization of a Working Group, in consultation with its Chairman and the other Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Working Group may nominate experts recommended and provided by Member States, observer organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

3.5.5 Co-operation between a GESAMP Working Group and expert groups established by other organizations, institutions or under other mechanisms is encouraged. A proposal to establish joint groups needs the unanimous approval of the Intersecretariat Meeting as well as approval of GESAMP.

3.6 Financial arrangements of GESAMP

3.6.1 The Sponsoring Organizations share the costs of meeting services and documentation pertaining to sessions of GESAMP.

3.6.2 Each Sponsoring Organization accepts responsibility for expenses related to the participation in sessions of its nominated experts, for maintaining contact with them and for the provision of necessary material and data.

3.6.3 A Sponsoring Organization acting as Lead Organization for inter-sessional work, in co-operation with co-sponsors and the Chairman of a Working Group, shall provide the Inter-secretariat Meeting with a financial plan covering such activities including an assurance that resources would be available to complete the work within a time frame set by GESAMP. In this context, it should be noted that the resources to be provided are to cover the expenses of the meeting but not the time of the expert required for the preparation for the meeting.

3.6.4 Travel expenses of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of GESAMP representing the Group or acting on its behalf at other fora shall be shared by the Sponsoring Organizations. Presentations of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman at sessions of Governing Bodies of the Sponsoring Organizations shall be covered by the Sponsoring Organization convening such sessions.

3.6.5 Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may support the work of GESAMP by funding inter-sessional work and/or by providing, at their expense, recommended experts to Working Groups, subject to the provisions referred to in paragraph 3.5.4.

3.7 Current Budget for GESAMP

3.7.1 The twenty-first session of the Assembly approved a budget of £77,200 for the biennium 2000 to 2001 to support the meeting costs of GESAMP. The original proposal of £100,000 was reduced to £77,200 as a result of the zero nominal growth policy required of IMO.

3.7.2 However, during the last Assembly session, the United Kingdom offered to provide a further £22,800 to offset this reduction in order to allow the GESAMP EHS Working Group to continue with its work.

3.7.3 As a result, a summary of the current GESAMP budget for the biennium (2000-2001) is as follows:

GESAMP EHS Working Group (2 sessions)	£40,000
GESAMP main meetings (2 sessions)	£48,000
Other GESAMP working group meetings	<u>£12,000</u>
Total	£100,000

4 ROLE OF THE VARIOUS BODIES IN CLASSIFYING PRODUCTS UNDER ANNEX II TO MARPOL 73/78

4.1 The following procedures are involved in classifying those products subject to the IBC Code under Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 whether under the existing provisions or any new ones approved by MEPC:

.1 Evaluation of the properties of products by the GESAMP EHS Working Group.

.1.1 In order to complete the revised/existing GESAMP Hazard Profile, each property of every product being evaluated has to be subject to the following process:

.1 carrying out a full literature search;

- .2 collecting and collating the appropriate data;
- .3 selecting the data considered to be most representative of the product concerned; and
- .4 converting the data into an evaluation code in accordance with the criteria agreed.

.2 Assignment of the appropriate Pollution Category and Ship Type by the BLG ESPH Working Group.

- .2.1 For each product, this involves applying the criteria, which are based on the GESAMP Hazard Profiles to define the Pollution Category and Ship Type.
- .2.2 In addition, other factors have to be taken into account such as viscosity and melting point, in order to assign the appropriate carriage requirements resulting from the product's environmental classification.
- .2.3 In addition to the environmental considerations, the ESPH Working Group also has to assign the appropriate carriage requirements based on the safety criteria which are currently being reconsidered.

.3 Consideration of the effect of the ESPH Classification with regard to costs, practical application and effect on the shipping industry by the BLG Sub-Committee.

- .3.1 This is an important part of the process that balances the theoretical approach of environmental protection with the practical impact that any resultant measures may have.

.4 Approval of the Classification of the products by MEPC in accordance with those criteria approved as part of the revised Annex II to MARPOL 73/78.

5 FINANCING OF OTHER EXPERT GROUPS SET UP TO REPORT TO IMO

5.1 In the past on request by IMO, there have been other groups created to examine issues that require specific expertise. For example, MSC set up a group, in conjunction with ILO to examine the working hours and training of ships' crews. This group included six to eight member governments attending IMO along with representatives chosen by ILO and was originally financed by IMO. However, after some years, this group was disbanded and when it was reformed later, the expenses of the members attending the group's meetings were financed by their respective governments.

5.2 This latter arrangement whereby governments financed group members expenses has become the adopted practice for other special groups that have been set up in the last ten years.

5.3 Similarly, during MSC 72, it was agreed that the joint IMO/FAO Joint Working Group on illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing would not entail financial implications to IMO (MSC72/23, paragraph 7.26).

5.4 Whilst recognizing that such joint working groups are not quite the same as a working group reporting to GESAMP but carrying out work for IMO, these are the closest comparison that can be made.

6 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Committee is invited to take note of this information when considering the request of BLG to review the working methods and fundings of the GESAMP EHS Working Group in relation to the review of MARPOL Annex II.
